poor people below the poverty line would be a little more.

But, nonetheless, the number is going down over the years. It will be 33 per cent according to some method and according to some other method it may be 36 to 37 per cent. But it is going down. Therefore, my submission is that poverty alleviation is very much on the agenda of the Eighth Plan and a large number of programmes and schemes have been formulated for this purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Sir, the Government....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Import of Edible Oil

*481. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI V. GOPALASAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import edible oil;

(b) if so, the quantity of edible oils proposed to be imported with cost in foreign exchange;

(c) the domestic production of edible oils during 1993 and the estimated production by the end of the year 1994;

(d) the extent to which the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils is anticipated to be met with the imports; and

(e) the overall impact on the domestic prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The decision to import palmolein has already been taken by the Government. However, the quantity and foreign exchange involved in import will be decided at the time of actual imports in the coming months depending upon the prices of edible oils in the country, its demand and supply in the market, etc.

(c) The likely production of edible oils during 1993-94 will be around 61.5 lakh M.Ts. No estimates have been worked out for the production by the end of the year 1994.

(d) At present, the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils is of the order of six to seven lakh tonnes and imported oil will supplement the availability of edible oils and reduce the gap to the extent of imported quantity.

(e) Imports of edible oil are likely to have a sobering effect on the prices in the open market as also make available palmolein at cheaper rates to consumers under PDS.

कोयला उत्पादन

*482. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में कोयले की मांग तथा वास्तविक उत्पादन का वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) कोयले के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं अथवा उठाए जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) देश में इस समय कोयले के उत्पादन का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) योजना आयोग द्वारा

कोयले की कुल मांग (जिसमें आयात शामिल है) किए गए मूल्यांकन और देश में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान हुए कोयले के वास्तविक उत्पादन को नीचे दर्शाया गया है :—

(मिलियन टन में)
आंकड़े अनंतिम

वर्ष	मांग	उत्पादन
1991-92	245.00	229.28
1992-93	258.10	238.33
1993-94	268.80	246.03

(ख) कोयला कम्पनियों द्वारा उत्पादन में सुधार किए जाने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों में, नई खानों का खोला जाना और आधुनिकीकरण, नई प्रौद्योगिकी के प्रयोग के द्वारा विद्यमान खानों की कार्यक्षमता तथा उत्पादकता में वृद्धि करना, और भागतों तथा संरचनात्मक सुविधाओं की उपलब्धता का समय पर सुनिश्चित किया जाना शामिल है। इसके अलावा, विशिष्ट ग्रहीत प्रयोगों के लिए कोयला खनन में निजी क्षेत्र को भी अनुमति दी जा रही है।

(ग) वर्ष 1992-93 में राज्य-वार किए गए कोयले के उत्पादन के संबंध में उपलब्ध सूचना नीचे दी गई है :—

(मिलियन टन में)
(आंकड़ा अनंतिम)

बिहार	71.21
पश्चिम बंगाल	17.81
उत्तर प्रदेश	12.32
उड़ीसा	23.14
मध्य प्रदेश	70.48
महाराष्ट्र	19.68
असम	1.10
आन्ध्र प्रदेश	22.58
जम्मू एवं कश्मीर	0.01
	238.33

Drive against hoarding and profiteering

*483. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL :

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3609 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April, 1994 and state :

(a) whether the Central Government have asked the State Governments to furnish the details of the action taken against the hoarders;

(b) whether Government have also pointed out that Centre's steps to increase the availability of essential commodities would bear no fruit if State Governments are unable to check the illegal activities of the traders;

(c) if so, whether any concrete proposal has been forwarded to the State Governments to set up a Consumer Welfare Fund for promoting consumer education, research and quality testing and imparting training to representatives of consumer organisations; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.